

PARKLAND MEMORIAL HOSPITAL

PATHOLOGY LABORATORY

Autopsy Number: M63-352

Unit No.:

Name: Tippit, J. D.

Age: 39 Race: White Sex: Male

Admitted: 11-22-63 DOA

Expired:

Autopsy date: 11-22-63, 3:15 P.M.

Service:

Autopsy by: Earl F. Rose, M. D.

Coroner: Judge Joe B. Brown, Jr.

Restrictions: None

EXTERNAL EXAMINATION:

External examination reveals a well developed white male measuring 5 foot, 11 inches in length and weighing an estimated 175 to 180 pounds. The hair is black, slightly wavy, very slight frontal balding. The irides are blue, the pupils are equal at 5 mm. Rigor is not present. Very slight posterior mottled lividity and body heat is present. Oral hygiene is good. The neck is not remarkable. Hair distribution is normal, the penis is circumcised. Identification bands on the left wrist, right wrist and left ankle.

There are four entrance types of wounds. No. 1 is $4 \frac{3}{4}$ inches from the top of the head and $3 \frac{3}{4}$ inches to the right of the midline. This measures $\frac{3}{8} \times \frac{1}{4}$ inch and is surrounded by a contusion ring. No powder tattooing is noted at the margins.

Wound No. 2 is 17 inches from the top of the head on the right chest. It is 4 inches to the right of the midline, above and slightly medial to the right nipple. It measures $\frac{3}{8} \times \frac{1}{4}$ of an inch, surrounded by bruising. There is also a contusion ring.

Wound No. 3 is 21 inches from the top of the head, along the anterior lateral side of the right chest and is 6 inches to the right of the midline. This measures $\frac{5}{16} \times \frac{1}{4}$ of an inch and is surrounded by a contusion ring.

Wound No. 4 on the left chest is $20 \frac{1}{2}$ inches from the top of the head, $1 \frac{1}{2}$ inches to the left of the midline. The wound measures $\frac{3}{4} \times \frac{3}{8}$ of an inch, is transverse and surrounding this is a $\frac{1}{4} \times \frac{3}{4}$ inch abrasion.

There is tanning of the arms. On the left arm there is a tattoo being "Right". On the dorsum of the left hand there is a crusted abraded area measuring $\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2}$ inch and a fresh abraded area on the dorsum of the right hand which measures $\frac{1}{2} \times \frac{1}{2}$ inch. The nails are quite well cared for although slightly dirty. Scar above the left knee, runs in an oblique fashion, crosses to the medial aspect of the knee, terminates on the leg measuring 7 inches. Poorly defined $\frac{1}{2}$ inch inoculation type of scar on the left deltoid region.

$16 \frac{1}{2}$ inches from the top of the head, $\frac{3}{4}$ of an inch to the right of the midline of the back in the subcutaneous tissue a missile is recovered from this region. This is associated with the Wound No. 3.

INCISIONS: The standard "Y" thoracoabdominal and intercostoid incisions are utilized. Examination of the wound of the right temple is made. It is found to enter in the right middle cranial fossa, pursues a course which is slightly upward, backward and

to the left. There is fracturing about the entrance and extensive fractures as it strikes the left occipitoparietal bone. It is recovered in this region, 3 inches to the left of the midline and approximately 1 inch from the top of the head. Dissection of the brain is made. The brain weighs 1350 gm. The course of the missile through the brain is followed. It is found to enter the right temporal lobe, course through the brain transecting the brain stem, covering the cerebral peduncles surrounded by extensive hemorrhage, and found to exit from the brain substance in the cerebellum area to the left of the midline. There are penetrations of the meninges in the regions described. Examination of the brain is otherwise not remarkable.

The abdominal periculus measures up to $7/8$ of an inch. The organs are in the normal position. Examination of the serous cavities is made. There is found to be extensive peritoneal hemorrhage, approximately 300 cc. In the right pleural space there is an excess of 1000 cc. of blood.

THE COURSES OF THE MISSILES ARE FOLLOWED. The wound described as No. 2 is found to go between the second and third rib. The missile is found to penetrate the anterior edge of the right upper lobe. The bullet is found to go into the pericardial sac, there is extensive hemorrhage in the pericardial sac, approximately 4 ounces. Passes through the superior vena cava. It exits into the mediastinum, strikes the fourth thoracic vertebra to the left of the midline, courses in the substance of the vertebra and is recovered slightly to the left of the vertebra approximately 16 inches from the top of the head, having pursued a course very slightly upward, to the left, and backwards.

Wound No. 3 is found to penetrate the chest wall as externally described, is surrounded by hemorrhage, notching the dorsum of the sixth rib slightly lateral to the costo-choroidal junction. It penetrates the anterior edge of the right lower lobe of the lung, the diaphragm, penetrates the liver, the entrance wound to the liver and laceration which is approximately 3×2.5 cm. It pursues a course backward, upward, and to the left and is recovered from the soft tissue of the back, $16\frac{1}{2}$ inches from the top of the head and $3/4$ of an inch to the right of the midline. In its course it is also found to again penetrate the diaphragm after going through the liver and penetrates the posterior aspect of the right lower lobe.

Wound No. 4 is examined. It is found to be superficial and no penetration of the rib cage is noted. There is hemorrhage beneath the abraded and bruised area adjacent to the wound. No missiles are present in this area.

LUNGS: The lungs together weigh 1200 gm. The penetrations of the lung have previously been described. There are areas of atelectasis and along the courses of the bullet through the lung there is extensive hemorrhage.

LIVER: The liver weighs 1670 gm. The penetrations of the liver have previously been described. The cut surface of the liver is not remarkable.

GALLBLADDER & BILIARY TREE: Not remarkable.

PANCREAS: Not remarkable.

KIDNEYS: The kidneys together weigh 350 gm. The capsule strips quite easily and they are pale.

ADRENALS: Not remarkable.

SPLEEN: The spleen weighs 100 g. The capsule is smooth. The cut surface is not remarkable.

HEART: The heart weighs 20 g. The an epicardial ecchymosis, anterior surface, left ventricle. The coronary arteries are opened in situ. They are found to be of normal caliber. There are no occlusions. The valves are not remarkable. The myocardium generally is not remarkable.

PANCREAS: Not remarkable.

INTESTINAL TRACT: The stomach contains partially digested food, approximately 5 ounces. The duodenum is normal. The small and large bowel are not remarkable. The appendix is present.

MUSCULO-SKELETAL SYSTEM: The musculo-skeletal system is not remarkable except for the previously described bone injuries.

LABORATORIES: Not remarkable.

FINDINGS:

Gunshot wound to the head.
 Brain parenchymal damage and hemorrhage.
 Gunshot wounds of the chest.
 Penetrations of the right lung, superior vena cava, and liver.
 Right hemothorax.
 Peritoneal hemorrhage.
 Pericardial hemorrhage with cardiac tamponade.

CAUSE OF DEATH:

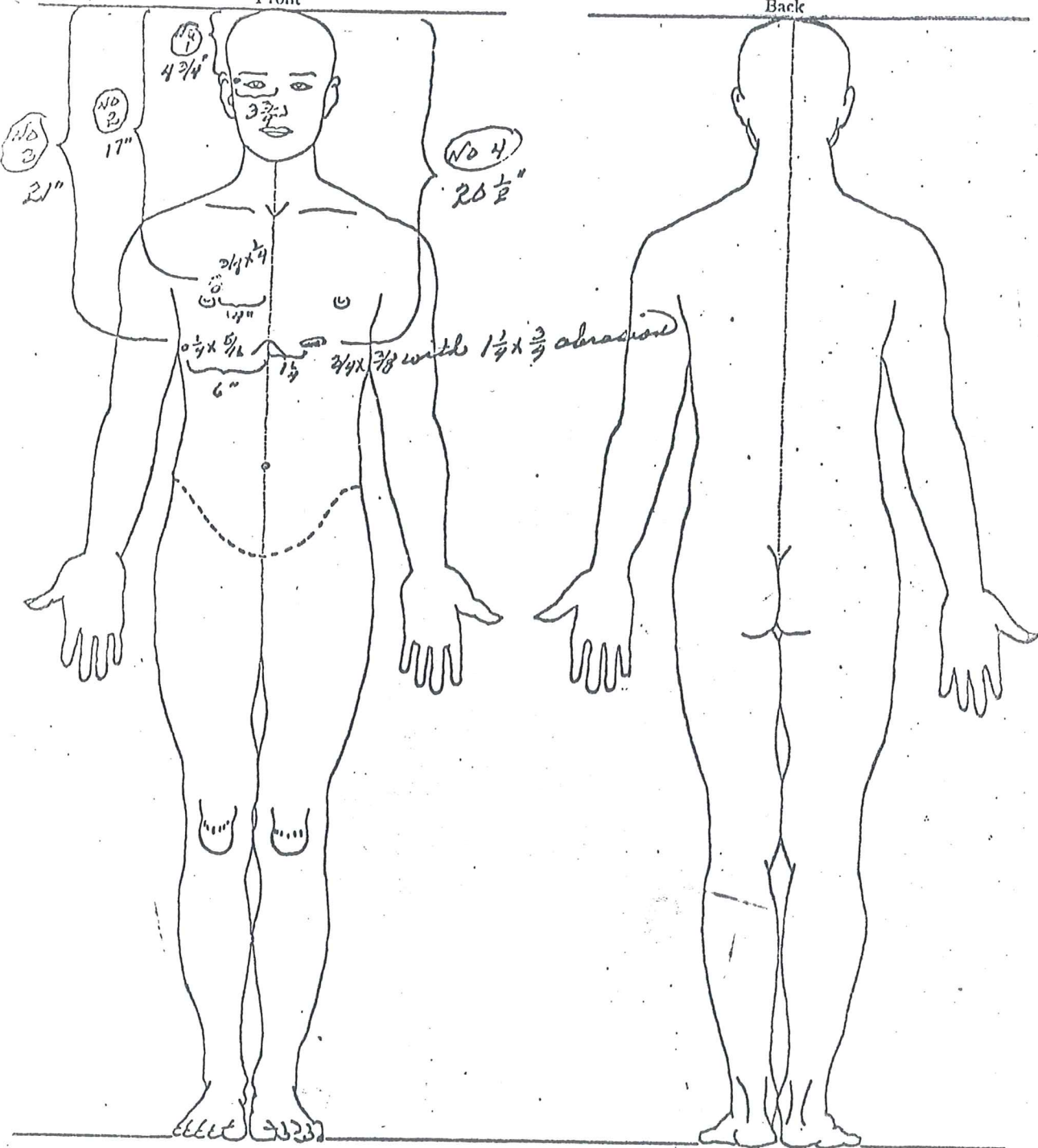
Gunshot wounds of the head and chest.

Earl F. Rose, M. D.

BODY DIAGRAM

Front

Back



Decedent's Height 5' 11 inches

Name W. N. Tippit No 352-63
 Examined By E. F. Rosen Date 11-22-63